

b1 sub-c1
1. (Amended) A method for providing an interconnection relationship between a product and a desired location on a global communications network, comprising the steps of:

5 disposing a machine readable product code on the product, the machine readable product code having encoded product information contained therein, the product code having no routing information embedded therein which would allow the product code, in and of itself, to cause routing to the desired location over any path on the network;

reading the machine readable code;

10 in response to the step of reading the machine readable product code, and without user intervention, decoding the product code; and

15 converting the decoded product code to routing information over the network to the desired location, which routing information defines the manner by which a user or a computer at a user location wherein the machine readable code was read can communicate with the desired location via an interconnection therewith.

b2 sub-c1
6. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of converting comprises:

5 providing a database having stored therein an associative table which relates a plurality of product codes with associated locations on the network, each of the product codes having routing information to that associated location associated therewith; and

comparing the decoded information of the product code with the table in the database to determine the routing information.

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein the database is not disposed at the user's location and is disposed at a remote location on the network, requiring a further step of transmitting the decoded information from the product code to the remote